



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/725,278	12/01/2003	Linda Van Patten Benhase	TUC920030094US1 (16800)	2547
46263	7590	01/11/2006	EXAMINER BASHORE, WILLIAM L	
SCULLY, SCOTT, MURPHY, & PRESSER 400 GARDEN CITY PL GARDEN CITY, NY 11530			ART UNIT 2176	

DATE MAILED: 01/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/725,278	BENHASE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	William L. Bashore	2176	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/1/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: original application filed 12/1/2003, IDS filed 12/1/2003.
2. Claims 1-18 pending. Claims 1, 7, 13 are independent.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3. **The claimed invention (as claimed in claims 1-12) is directed to non-statutory subject matter.**

In regard to Independent claims 1, 7, claim 1 does not appear to be directed to any of the technological arts. Claim 1 claims a method, but there appears to be nothing in claim 1 which ties said method to a computer, therefore, said claim is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claim 7 is directed to a system, but there appears to be nothing in claim 1 which ties said method to a computer (i.e. a processor), therefore, said claim is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

In regard to dependent claims 2-6, 8-12, said claims are rejected for fully incorporating the deficiencies of their respective base claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2176

4. **Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greenfield et al. (hereinafter Greenfield), U.S. Patent No. 6,544,294 issued April 2003.**

In regard to independent claim 1, Greenfield teaches a method of displaying text based objects divided and displayed as a plurality of columns of data, said display utilizing various hierarchical levels (Greenfield Figure 10). It is noted that Figure 10 items “Act 1”, “Act 2”, etc., can be fairly interpreted as columns, with sub-columns “Scene 1” etc., accordingly) (compare with claim 1 *“A method for grouping columns of data into different levels for subsequent multiple level operations, comprising the steps:”*).

Greenfield teaches sub-columns within a single table column, each having associated headers (Greenfield Figure 10 – item headers: “Scene1: Court”, “Scene 2”, (both under single table column “Act 1: The Journey Begins”); compare with claim 1 *“providing sub-columns within a single table column, said table columns and each of the sub-columns having an associated header;”*).

Greenfield teaches an alternate table display (Greenfield Figure 9) showing slider bars and scrollable windows. Greenfield also teaches another alternate table display (Greenfield Figure 8). All three displays reflect headers (i.e. Act 1, etc). Since these are optional alternate displays, said displays can be fairly interpreted as displayed separately at different locations and resized accordingly. It is noted that although Greenfield does not specifically disclose a “dummy” table, nevertheless, Greenfield does teach that data within a window of displays 8, 9, and 10 can be hidden (Greenfield column 10 lines 30-41, especially lines 37-41). It is also within reason that an author of a play can first create headers, and fill in the content windows later. These teachings provide reasonable suggestion to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to create “dummy” displays (without content data), providing the benefit of displaying initial presentation outlines of a textual work (compare with claim 1 *“using multiple dummy tables....the associated headers.”*).

In regard to dependent claim 2, Greenfield teaches display (Greenfield Figure 10), and an alternate table display (Greenfield Figure 9) showing slider bars and scrollable windows. Greenfield also teaches another alternate table display (Greenfield Figure 8). All three displays reflect headers and sub-columns accordingly (i.e. Act 1, etc).

In regard to dependent claim 3, Greenfield teaches that data within a window of displays 8, 9, and 10 can be hidden, or shown (Greenfield column 10 lines 30-41, especially lines 37-41). It is also within reason that an author of a play can first create headers, and fill in the content windows later. These teachings provide reasonable suggestion to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to create “dummy” displays (without content data), providing the benefit of displaying initial presentation outlines of a textual work. Said data tables additionally contain a multitude of data columns with data (i.e. data cells, etc.) accordingly.

In regard to dependent claim 4, Greenfield does not specifically teach contiguously displaying dummy tables. However, this limitations would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, in view of Greenfield, because Greenfield teaches multiple presentation displays in separate windows (Greenfield Figure 10), providing reasonable suggestion to the skilled artisan to show related information accordingly, providing Greenfield the benefit of contiguous displays of tables for comparison purposes.

In regard to dependent claims 5, 6, Greenfield does not specifically disclose “only” a header, nevertheless, Greenfield does teach that data within a window of displays 8, 9, and 10 can be hidden (Greenfield column 10 lines 30-41, especially lines 37-41). It is also within reason that an author of a play can first create headers, and fill in the content windows later. These teachings provide reasonable suggestion to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to create displays with headers only (without content data), providing

the benefit of displaying initial presentation outlines of a textual work. Said data tables additionally contain a multitude of data columns with data (i.e. data cells, etc.) accordingly.

In regard to independent claim 7, claim 7 reflects the system comprising computer executable instructions used for performing the methods as claimed in claim 1, and is rejected along the same rationale.

In regard to dependent claim 8, Greenfield teaches display (Greenfield Figure 10), and an alternate table display (Greenfield Figure 9) showing slider bars and scrollable windows. Greenfield also teaches another alternate table display (Greenfield Figure 8). All three displays reflect headers and sub-headers accordingly (i.e. Act 1, etc).

In regard to dependent claim 9, Greenfield teaches display (Greenfield Figure 10), and an alternate table display (Greenfield Figure 9) showing slider bars and scrollable windows. Greenfield also teaches another alternate table display (Greenfield Figure 8). All three displays reflect headers and sub-headers accordingly (i.e. Act 1, etc). The alternate tables display the headers accordingly.

In regard to dependent claims 10, 11, Greenfield does not specifically disclose “only” a header, nevertheless, Greenfield does teach that data within a window of displays 8, 9, and 10 can be hidden (Greenfield column 10 lines 30-41, especially lines 37-41). It is also within reason that an author of a play can first create headers, and fill in the content windows later. These teachings provide reasonable suggestion to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to create displays with headers only (without content data), providing the benefit of displaying initial presentation outlines of a textual work. Said data tables additionally contain a multitude of data columns with data (i.e. data cells, etc.) accordingly.

Art Unit: 2176

In regard to dependent claim 12, Greenfield teaches display (Greenfield Figure 10), and an alternate table display (Greenfield Figure 9) showing slider bars and scrollable windows. Greenfield also teaches another alternate table display (Greenfield Figure 8). All three displays reflect headers and all sub-headers accordingly (i.e. Act 1, etc).

In regard to independent claim 13, claim 13 reflects the computer program product comprising computer executable instructions used for performing the methods as claimed in claim 1, and is rejected along the same rationale.

In regard to dependent claims 14-18, claims 14-18 reflect the computer program product comprising computer executable instructions used for performing the methods of the system as claimed in claims 8-12 respectively, and are rejected along the same rationale.


Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William L. Bashore whose telephone number is (571) 272-4088. The examiner can normally be reached on 11:30am - 8:00pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on (571) 272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2176

6. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


WILLIAM BASHORE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

January 8, 2006